

In re Appln. of Heuft et al.  
Application No. Unassigned (U.S. National Phase of PCT/EP2003/010112)  
Preliminary Amendment

**Amendments to the Abstract**

Please delete the Abstract and add the following new Abstract:

The apparatus serves to distribute a random stream of items into several lanes in which the items are transported individually one after the other. The apparatus has a transport device for the items, wherein the transport device has one or more driven conveyor belts and side rails as well as a lane divider. The lane divider has at least one movable divider which divides the stream of transported items. A middle divider can project against the direction of transport and side dividers can be set back staggered. In an embodiment, the lane divider has a frame to which the dividers are attached. The apparatus also has a device for driving the lane divider, so that the at least one divider carries out a back-and-forth movement in the direction of transport and/or transversely to it.

A replacement Abstract is attached hereto on a separate sheet in accordance with 37 CFR 1.72.